

RESOLUTION NO. 12-567

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HUNTSVILLE'S COALITION FOR DEMOCRACY'S EFFORTS TO LIMIT CORPORATE INFLUENCE IN ELECTIONS AND POLICY MAKING**

**WHEREAS**, the Huntsville City Council has been apprised by local citizens about the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*, the U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution has impacted the rights of people in our democracy by allowing undue influence of corporations on our election and public policy; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*, the U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution has impacted the rights of people in our democracy by allowing undue influence of corporations on our election and public policy; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* broke with the recognized principle acknowledging the power of U.S. citizens through their elected representatives to limit corporate influence in elections; and,

**WHEREAS**, allowing unlimited spending from corporate profits to favor or oppose candidates obviously influences elections and the Supreme Court's decision will permit even greater influence over our political process; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* broke with the recognized principle acknowledging the power of U.S. citizens through their elected representatives to limit corporate influence in elections; and,

**WHEREAS**, allowing unlimited spending from corporate profits to favor or oppose candidates obviously influences elections and the Supreme Court's decision will permit even greater influence over our political process; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court's decision allows the free speech rights of a corporation to dilute and outweigh the free speech rights of ordinary citizens. The vast financial resources corporations have for spending money to influence elections outweigh that of regular people; and,

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**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court's elevation of corporate "rights" may have repercussions that go far beyond this one case and will undermine the ability of the people to regulate corporations in numerous policy areas affecting people's health, wealth, and opportunities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the American people, through their local, state, and federal governments, must reclaim their rightful place to protect the electoral process from corporate domination; and,

**WHEREAS**, fair elections are fundamental to the health and well-being of our democracy; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Huntsville, Alabama, believes that corporations should not be entitled to the same rights in our elections as our citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of Huntsville, Alabama, strongly supports the efforts of its citizens working to limit corporate influence in elections and policy making, and supports amending the U.S. Constitution to limit corporate influence and restore democracy in our elections for the benefit of the American people.

**ADOPTED** on this the 12th day of July, 2012.

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President of the City Council of the  
City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** on this the 12th day of July, 2012.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama